

'Our positions are complementary, not in conflict!' – Recognizing complementarity offers an attractive model for the coexistence of different knowledges, systems, and cultures. However, different positions rarely simply add up like pieces in a puzzle to provide a full, harmonizing picture. The pieces usually seem to be too large and it requires violence to make them fit – for instance, by constructing others as a complement that provides just what one misses – or to make them compatible where they overlap. Instead of being visualizable in terms of a jigsaw puzzle, the principle of complementarity such as it was introduced by Niels Bohr in order to address the apparent particle-wave duality in quantum physics remains puzzling.

It allows for the possibility that different perspectives not only constitute objects differently, but constitute different objects. While there may be no perspective from which the different objects can be seen together, considering them nonetheless as equally necessary for a fuller account stimulates a radical rethinking that unsettle traditional oppositions of identity and difference, subject and object, epistemology and ontology.

17 OCTOBER 2011

ELIZABETH A. POVINELLI
New Media/Other Worlds?

Elizabeth A. Povinelli is Professor of Anthropology & Gender Studies Columbia University, New York. Currently she is German Transatlantic Program Fellow at The American Academy in Berlin.

An ICI Berlin Lecture in Collaboration with The American Academy in Berlin.

10 JANUARY 2012

ISABELL LOREY
Complementary Communities and Strategies of Immunization

Isabell Lorey is a political scientist. She is a visiting professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin and teaches political theory, cultural, gender, and postcolonial studies at the University of Vienna. Her many areas of research include feminist and political theory, focusing on biopolitics, critical whiteness studies, political immunization, constituent power and exodus in political movements, and precarization.

27 FEBRUARY 2012

HARALD ATMANSPACHER
Complementarity and Bistable Perception

Harald Atmanspacher is Head of the Department of Theory and Data Analysis of the Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health, Freiburg, Faculty Member of the C. G. Jung Institute, Zurich, Associate Fellow at the Collegium Helveticum, Zurich, at the ETH, as well as at the University of Zurich.

8 MAY 2012

RENATA SALECL
Events between Violence and Identification: How to Think Complementarity in Today's Fractured Societies

Renata Salecl is a philosopher and sociologist. She is Senior Researcher at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, Slovenia and recurring visiting professor at Cardozo School of Law in New York, Birkbeck College in London and the LSE. She was Fellow of Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin and Remarque Fellow at New York University. In 2010, she has been named Slovenian Woman Scientist of the Year.

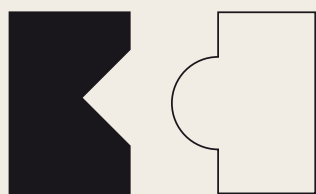
7 JUNE 2012

ASTRID DEUBER-MANKOWSKY
Diffractioning the Rays of Knowledge: Figural and Agential Realism in Donna Haraway and Karen Barad

Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky is Professor of Media Studies at the Ruhr-University Bochum. She has published extensively on topics in feminist theory, representation and mediality, media theory and philosophy as well as religion and modernism. Her book on Walter Benjamin and Hermann Cohen was awarded the Humboldt University prize for best dissertation.

Conceived within the framework of the ICI Core Project Tension/Spannung, the ICI Lecture Series On Complementarity explores the critical potential of complementarity in the Sciences, the Arts, and Politics.

All talks start at 7.30 pm and are in English.



On Complementarity

ICI Lecture Series